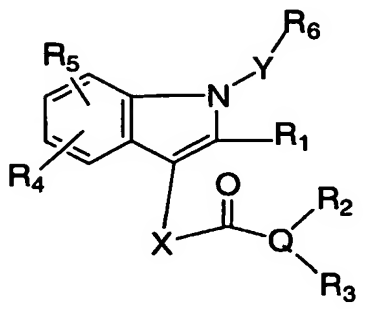
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of the structural formula I:



Formula I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer, diastereomer or mixture thereof:
wherein,

R represents hydrogen, or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R_1 represents hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl, CF_3, C_{1-6} alkoxy, OH, COR^c, CO_2R_8, $CONHCH_2CO_2R$, $N(R)_2$, said alkyl and alkoxy optionally substituted with 1-3 groups selected from R^b;

X represents $-(CHR_7)_p-$;

Y represents $-CO(CH_2)_n-$, or -CH(OR)-;

Q represents N, CR_Y, or O, wherein R_2 is absent when Q is O;

R_Y represents H, or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R_w represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-C(O)C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $-C(O)OC_{1-6}$ alkyl, $-SO_2N(R)_2$, $-SO_2C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $-SO_2C_{6-10}$ aryl, NO_2, CN or $-C(O)N(R)_2$;

R_2 represents hydrogen, C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkylSR, $-(CH_2)_nO(CH_2)_mOR$, $-(CH_2)_nC_{1-6}$ alkoxy, $-(CH_2)_nC_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{3-10}$ heterocyclyl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{5-10}$ heteroaryl, $-N(R)_2$, -COOR, or $-(CH_2)_nC_{6-10}$ aryl, said alkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl or heteroaryl optionally substituted with 1-3 groups selected from R^a;

R_3 represents hydrogen, C_{1-10} alkyl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{3-10}$ heterocyclyl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{5-10}$ heteroaryl, $-(CH_2)_nCOOR$, $-(CH_2)_nC_{6-10}$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_nNHR_8$, $-(CH_2)_nN(R)_2$, $-(CH_2)_nN(R_8)_2$, $-(CH_2)_nNHCOOR$, $-(CH_2)_nN(R_8)CO_2R$, $-(CH_2)_nN(R_8)COR$, $-(CH_2)_nNHCOR$, $-(CH_2)_nCONH(R_8)$, aryl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{1-6}$-OR, CF_3, $-(CH_2)_nSO_2R$, $-(CH_2)_nSO_2N(R)_2$, $-(CH_2)_nCON(R)_2$, $-(CH_2)_nCONHC(R)_3$, $-(CH_2)_nCONHC(R)_2CO_2R$, $-(CH_2)_nCOR_8$, nitro, cyano or halogen, said alkyl, alkoxy, heterocyclyl, aryl or heteroaryl optionally substituted with 1-3 groups of R^a;

or, when Q is N, R_2 and R_3 taken together with the intervening N atom form a 4-10 membered heterocyclic carbon ring optionally interrupted by 1-2 atoms of O, S, C(O) or NR, and optionally having 1-4 double bonds, and optionally substituted by 1-3 groups selected from R^a;

R_4 and R_5 independently represent hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkoxy, OH, C_{1-6} alkyl, COOR, SO_3H, C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl, S(O)qRY, $-O(CH_2)_nN(R)_2$, $-O(CH_2)_nCO_2R$, $-OPO(OH)_2$, CF_3, $-N(R)_2$, nitro, cyano, C_{1-6} alkylamino, or halogen;

R_6 represents hydrogen, C_{1-10} alkyl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{6-10}$ aryl, $-NH(CH_2)_nC_{6-10}$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{5-10}$ heteroaryl, $-NH(CH_2)_nC_{5-10}$ heteroaryl, (C_{6-10} aryl)O-, $-(CH_2)_nC_{3-10}$ heterocyclyl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl, -COOR, $-C(O)CO_2R$, said aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl and alkyl optionally substituted with 1-3 groups selected from R^a;

R_7 represents hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-(CH_2)_nCOOR$ or $-(CH_2)_nN(R)_2$,

R_8 represents $-(CH_2)_nC_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_n$ 3-10 heterocyclyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy or $-(CH_2)_nC_{5-10}$ heteroaryl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{6-10}$ aryl said heterocyclyl, aryl or heteroaryl optionally substituted with 1-3 groups selected from R^a;

R^a represents F, Cl, Br, I, CF_3, $N(R)_2$, NO_2, CN, $-(CH_2)_nCOR_8$, $-(CH_2)_nCONHR_8$, $-(CH_2)_nCON(R_8)_2$, $-O(CH_2)_nCOOR$, $-NH(CH_2)_nOR$, -COOR, $-OCF_3$, -NHCOR, $-SO_2R$, $-SO_2NR_2$, -SR, $(C_1\text{-}C_6$ alkyl)O-, $-(CH_2)_nO(CH_2)_mOR$, $-(CH_2)_nC_{1\text{-}6}$ alkoxy, (aryl)O-, -OH, $(C_1\text{-}C_6$ alkyl)$S(O)_m$-, H_2N-C(NH)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6$ alkyl)C(O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6$ alkyl)OC(O)NH-, $-(C_1\text{-}C_6$ alkyl)$NR_w(CH_2)_nC_{3\text{-}10}$ heterocyclyl-R_w, $-(C_1\text{-}C_6$ alkyl)$O(CH_2)_nC_{3\text{-}10}$ heterocyclyl-R_w, $-(C_1\text{-}C_6$ alkyl)$S(CH_2)_nC_{3\text{-}10}$ heterocyclyl-R_w, $-(C_1\text{-}C_6$ alkyl)-$C_{3\text{-}10}$ heterocyclyl-R_w, $-(CH_2)_n$-Z^1-$C(=Z^2)N(R)_2$, $-(C_{2\text{-}6}$ alkenyl)$NR_w(CH_2)_nC_{3\text{-}10}$ heterocyclyl-R_w, $-(C_{2\text{-}6}$ alkenyl)$O(CH_2)_nC_{3\text{-}10}$ heterocyclyl-R_w, $-(C_{2\text{-}6}$ alkenyl)$S(CH_2)_nC_{3\text{-}10}$ heterocyclyl-R_w, $-(C_{2\text{-}6}$ alkenyl)-$C_{3\text{-}10}$ heterocyclyl-R_w, $-(C_{2\text{-}6}$ alkenyl)-Z^1-$C(=Z^2)N(R)_2$, $-(CH_2)_nSO_2R$, $-(CH_2)_nSO_3H$, $-(CH_2)_nPO(OR)_2$, cyclohexyl, morpholinyl, piperidyl, pyrrolidinyl, thiophenyl, phenyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, thienyl, furyl, isothiazolyl, $C_{2\text{-}6}$ alkenyl, and $C_1\text{-}C_{10}$ alkyl, said alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, phenyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, thienyl, furyl, and isothiazolyl optionally substituted with 1-3 groups selected from $C_1\text{-}C_6$ alkyl, and COOR;

Z^1 and Z^2 independently represents NR_w, O, CH_2, or S;

R^b represents $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl, -COOR, $-SO_3R$, $-OPO(OH)_2$, $-(CH_2)_nC_{6\text{-}10}$ aryl, or $-(CH_2)_nC_{5\text{-}10}$ heteroaryl;

R^c represents hydrogen, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl, or $-(CH_2)_nC_{6\text{-}10}$ aryl;

m is 0-3;
n is 0-3;
q is 0-2; and
p is 0-1.

2. A compound of the structural formula I wherein X is CHR_7.

3. A compound according to claim 1 wherein Y is $-CO(CH_2)_n$.

4. A compound according to claim 1 wherein Y is CH(OR).

5. A compound according to claim 1 wherein Q is N.

6. A compound according to claim 1 wherein Q is CH.

7. A compound according to claim 2 wherein R_6 is $(CH_2)_nC_{6-10}$ aryl, $(CH_2)_nC_{5-10}$ heteroaryl, $(CH_2)_nC_{3-10}$ heterocyclyl, or $(CH_2)_nC_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl, said aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl and alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 groups of R^a.

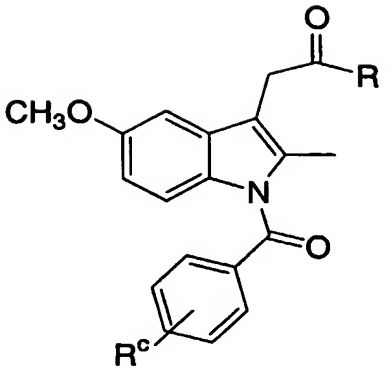
8. A compound according to claim 6 wherein R_7 is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl.

9. A compound according to claim 6 wherein Q is N and n is 0.

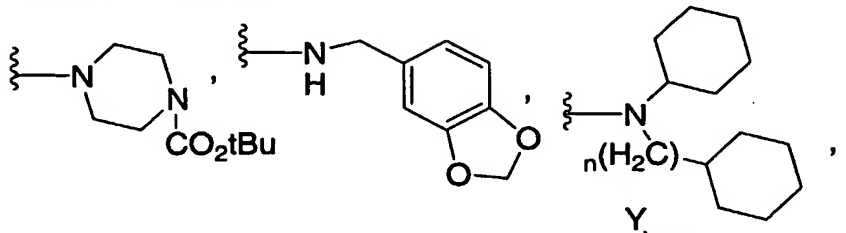
10. A compound according to claim 1 wherein Y is $-CO(CH_2)_n$, Q is N, n is 0, R_2 is C_{1-10} alkyl or C_{1-6} alkylOH and R_3 is $(CH_2)_nC_{3-10}$ heterocyclyl, said heterocyclyl and alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 groups of R^a.

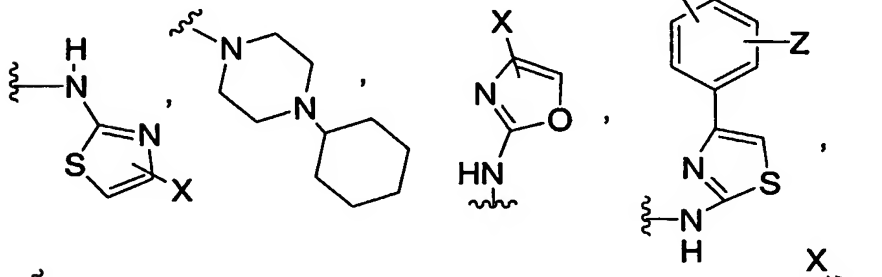
11. A compound which is selected from Tables 1 through 4:

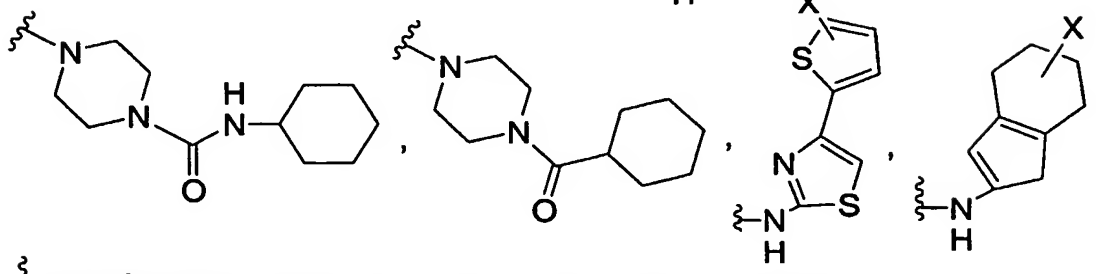
Table 1



Wherein R represents:





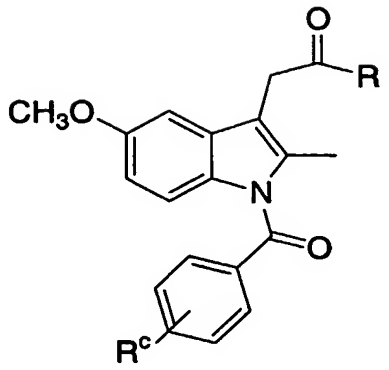


$-N(OCH_3)CH_3$, $-NH(CH_2)_3NH_2$, $-NH(CH_2)_3NHCO_2X$

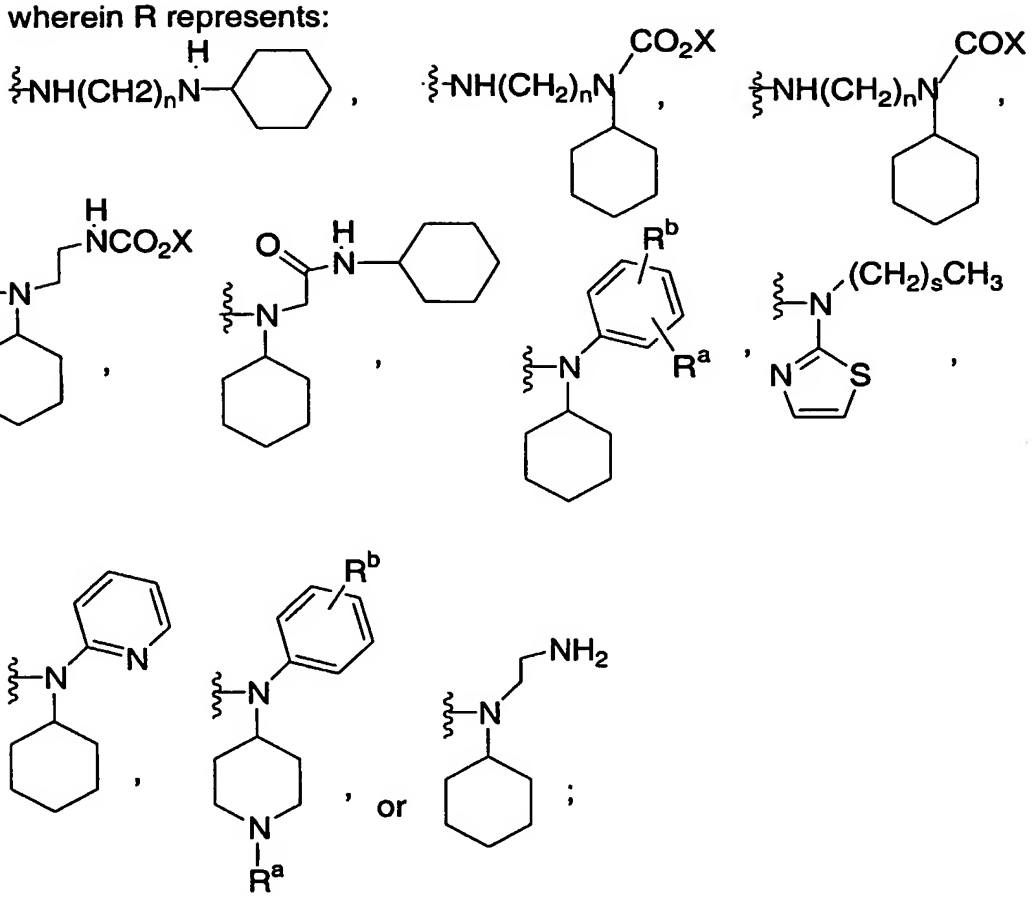
$-NH(CH_2)_2NHCO_2X$, or $-NHC_{1-6}$alkyl;

n is 0 to 3; X, Y and Z, independently represent hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; and Rc represents hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, CF3, OCF3, N(CH3)3, COC_{1-6} alkyl, or methoxy;

Table 2

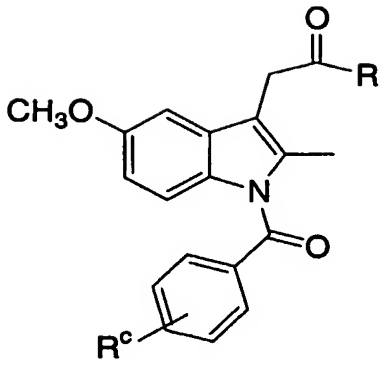


wherein R represents:

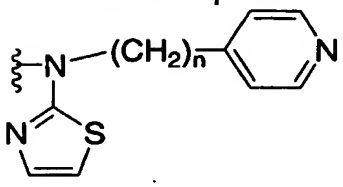


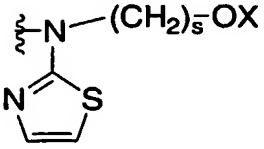
n is 0 to 3; s is 1-5; X represents hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; R^b and R^a independently represent hydrogen, methoxy, CO_2X, NHAc, or C_{1-6} alkyl; R^c represents hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, CF_3, OCF_3, $N(CH_3)_2$, COC_{1-6} alkyl, or methoxy

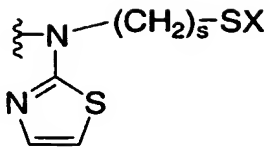
Table 3

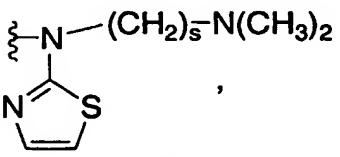


wherein R represents:









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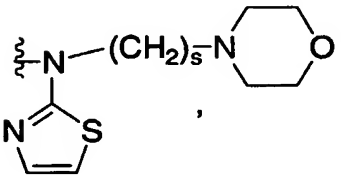

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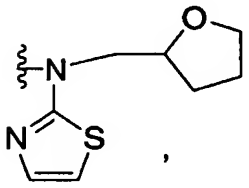

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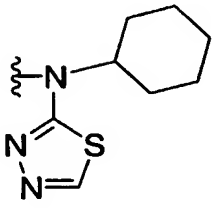

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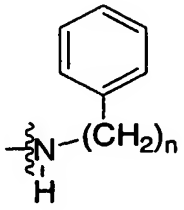

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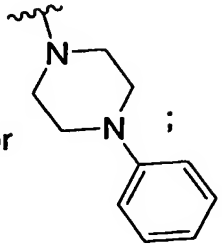
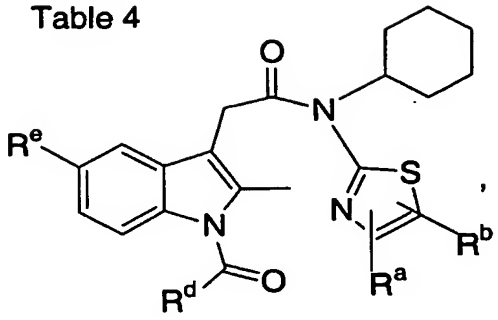


or ;

n is 0 to 3; s is 1-5; X represents hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; and R^c represents hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, CF_3, OCF_3, $N(CH_3)_2$, COC_{1-6} alkyl, or methoxy

Table 4



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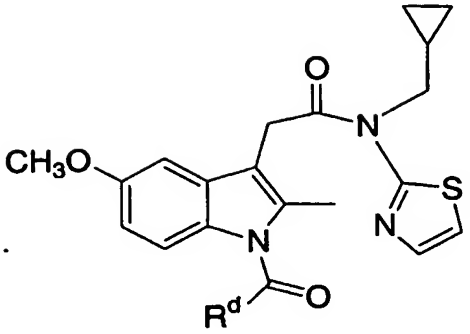
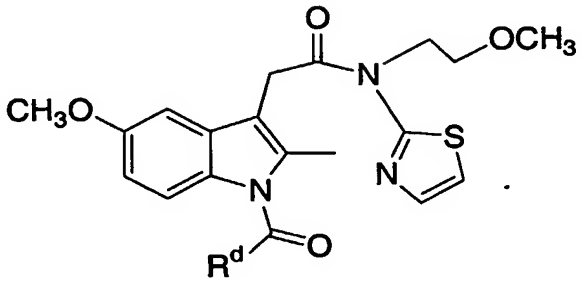


or



.

wherein:

R^b and R^a independently represent hydrogen, methoxy, CO_2X, NHAc, or C_{1-6} alkyl;

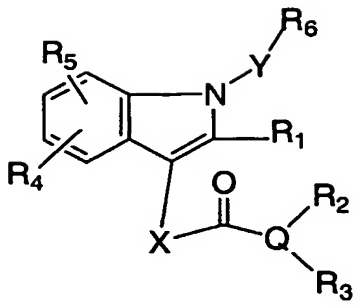
R^d represents C1-6 alkyl, pyridinyl, -O-phenyl, phenyl, thienyl, said pyridinyl and phenyl optionally substituted with 1-3 halogen, CF_3, OCF_3, $N(CH_3)_2$, methoxy or C1-6 alkyl; and

R^e represents methoxy, $O(CH_2)_2N(CH_3)_2$, or OH;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer, diastereomer or mixture thereof.

12. A method for treating ocular hypertension or glaucoma comprising administration to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a

compound of structural formula I:



Formula I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer, diastereomer or mixture thereof:
wherein,

R represents hydrogen, or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R_1 represents hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl, CF_3, C_{1-6} alkoxy, OH, COR^c, CO_2R_8, $CONHCH_2CO_2R$, $N(R)_2$, said alkyl and alkoxy optionally substituted with 1-3 groups selected from R^b;

X represents $-(CHR_7)_p-$;

Y represents $-CO(CH_2)_n-$, or -CH(OR)-;

Q represents N, CR_Y, or O, wherein R_2 is absent when Q is O;

R_Y represents H, or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R_w represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-C(O)C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $-C(O)OC_{1-6}$ alkyl, $-SO_2N(R)_2$, $-SO_2C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $-SO_2C_{6-10}$ aryl, NO_2, CN or $-C(O)N(R)_2$;

R_2 represents hydrogen, C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkylSR, $-(CH_2)_nO(CH_2)_mOR$,

$-(CH_2)_nC_{1-6}$ alkoxy, $-(CH_2)_nC_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{3-10}$ heterocyclyl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{5-10}$ heteroaryl, $-N(R)_2$, -COOR, or $-(CH_2)_nC_{6-10}$ aryl, said alkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl or heteroaryl optionally substituted with 1-3 groups selected from R^a;

R_3 represents hydrogen, C_{1-10} alkyl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{3-10}$ heterocyclyl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{5-10}$ heteroaryl, $-(CH_2)_nCOOR$, $-(CH_2)_nC_{6-10}$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_nNHR_8$, $-(CH_2)_nN(R)_2$, $-(CH_2)_nN(R_8)_2$, $-(CH_2)_nNHCOOR$, $-(CH_2)_nN(R_8)CO_2R$, $-(CH_2)_nN(R_8)COR$, $-(CH_2)_nNHCOR$, $-(CH_2)_nCONH(R_8)$, aryl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{1-6}$-OR, CF_3, $-(CH_2)_nSO_2R$, $-(CH_2)_nSO_2N(R)_2$, $-(CH_2)_nCON(R)_2$, $-(CH_2)_nCONHC(R)_3$, $-(CH_2)_nCONHC(R)_2CO_2R$, $-(CH_2)_nCOR_8$, nitro, cyano or halogen, said alkyl, alkoxy, heterocyclyl, aryl or heteroaryl optionally substituted with 1-3 groups of R^a;

or, when Q is N, R_2 and R_3 taken together with the intervening N atom form a 4-10 membered heterocyclic carbon ring optionally interrupted by 1-2 atoms of O, S, C(O) or NR, and optionally having 1-4 double bonds, and optionally substituted by 1-3 groups selected from R^a;

R_4 and R_5 independently represent hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkoxy, OH, C_{1-6} alkyl, COOR, SO_3H, C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl, S(O)qRy, $-O(CH_2)_nN(R)_2$, $-O(CH_2)_nCO_2R$, $-OPO(OH)_2$, CF_3, $-N(R)_2$, nitro, cyano, C_{1-6} alkylamino, or halogen;

R_6 represents hydrogen, C_{1-10} alkyl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{6-10}$ aryl, $-NH(CH_2)_nC_{6-10}$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{5-10}$ heteroaryl, $-NH(CH_2)_nC_{5-10}$ heteroaryl, (C_{6-10} aryl)O-, $-(CH_2)_nC_{3-10}$ heterocyclyl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl, -COOR, $-C(O)CO_2R$, said aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl and alkyl optionally substituted with 1-3 groups selected from R^a;

R_7 represents hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-(CH_2)_nCOOR$ or $-(CH_2)_nN(R)_2$,

R_8 represents $-(CH_2)_nC_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_n$ 3-10 heterocyclyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy or $-(CH_2)_nC_{5-10}$ heteroaryl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{6-10}$ aryl said heterocyclyl, aryl or heteroaryl optionally substituted with 1-3 groups selected from R^a;

R^a represents F, Cl, Br, I, CF_3, $N(R)_2$, NO_2, CN, $-(CH_2)_nCOR_8$, $-(CH_2)_nCONHR_8$, $-(CH_2)_nCON(R_8)_2$, $-O(CH_2)_nCOOR$, $-NH(CH_2)_nOR$, -COOR, $-OCF_3$, -NHCOR, $-SO_2R$, $-SO_2NR_2$, -SR, (C_1-C_6 alkyl)O-, $-(CH_2)_nO(CH_2)_mOR$, $-(CH_2)_nC_{1-6}$ alkoxy, (aryl)O-, -OH,

$(C_1\text{-}C_6$ alkyl)$S(O)_m$-, H_2N-C(NH)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6$ alkyl)C(O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6$ alkyl)OC(O)NH-, -$(C_1\text{-}C_6$ alkyl)$NR_w(CH_2)_nC_{3\text{-}10}$ heterocyclyl-R_w, -$(C_1\text{-}C_6$ alkyl)$O(CH_2)_nC_{3\text{-}10}$ heterocyclyl-R_w, -$(C_1\text{-}C_6$ alkyl)$S(CH_2)_nC_{3\text{-}10}$ heterocyclyl-R_w, -$(C_1\text{-}C_6$ alkyl)-$C_{3\text{-}10}$ heterocyclyl-R_w, -$(CH_2)_n$-Z^1-C(=Z^2)$N(R)_2$, -$(C_{2\text{-}6}$ alkenyl)$NR_w(CH_2)_nC_{3\text{-}10}$ heterocyclyl-R_w, -$(C_{2\text{-}6}$ alkenyl)$O(CH_2)_nC_{3\text{-}10}$ heterocyclyl-R_w, -$(C_{2\text{-}6}$ alkenyl)$S(CH_2)_nC_{3\text{-}10}$ heterocyclyl-R_w, -$(C_{2\text{-}6}$ alkenyl)-$C_{3\text{-}10}$ heterocyclyl-R_w, -$(C_{2\text{-}6}$ alkenyl)-Z^1-C(=Z^2)$N(R)_2$, -$(CH_2)_nSO_2R$, -$(CH_2)_nSO_3H$, -$(CH_2)_nPO(OR)_2$, cyclohexyl, morpholinyl, piperidyl, pyrrolidinyl, thiophenyl, phenyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, thienyl, furyl, isothiazolyl, $C_{2\text{-}6}$ alkenyl, and $C_1\text{-}C_{10}$ alkyl, said alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, phenyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, thienyl, furyl, and isothiazolyl optionally substituted with 1-3 groups selected from $C_1\text{-}C_6$ alkyl, and COOR;

Z^1 and Z^2 independently represents NR_w, O, CH_2, or S;

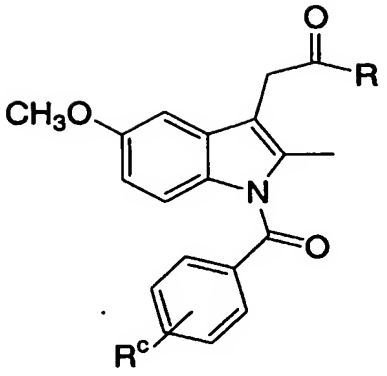
R^b represents $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl, -COOR, -SO_3R, -$OPO(OH)_2$, -$(CH_2)_nC_{6\text{-}10}$ aryl, or -$(CH_2)_nC_{5\text{-}10}$ heteroaryl;

R^c represents hydrogen, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl, or -$(CH_2)_nC_{6\text{-}10}$ aryl;

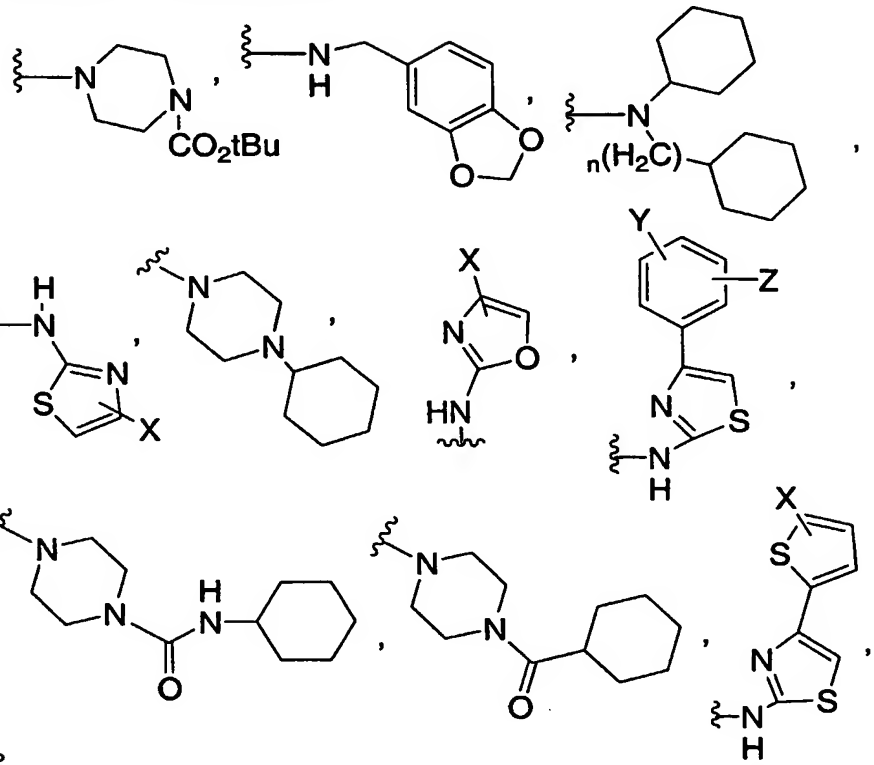
m is 0-3;
n is 0-3;
q is 0-2; and
p is 0-1.

13. The method according to claim 12 wherein the compound of Formula I is selected from Tables 1 through 4:

Table 1



Wherein R represents:

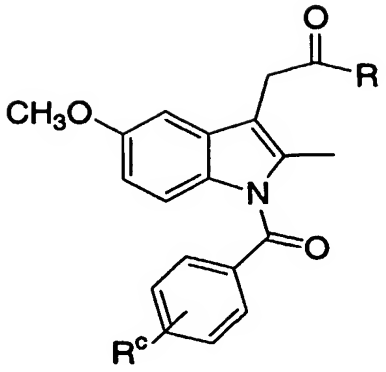


$-N(OCH_3)CH_3$, $-NH(CH_2)_3NH_2$, $-NH(CH_2)_3NHCO_2X$

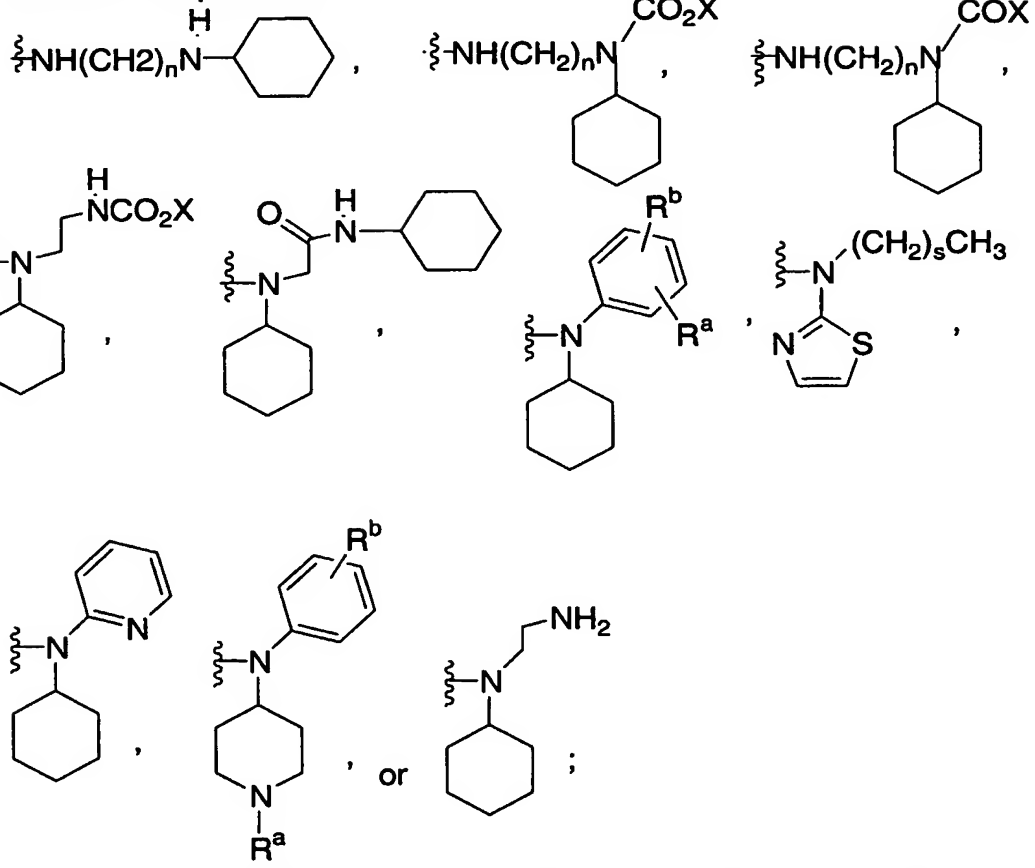
$-NH(CH_2)_2NHCO_2X$, or $-NHC_{1-6}$alkyl;

n is 0 to 3; X, Y and Z, independently represent hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; and Rc represents hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, CF3, OCF3, N(CH3)3, COC_{1-6} alkyl, or methoxy;

Table 2

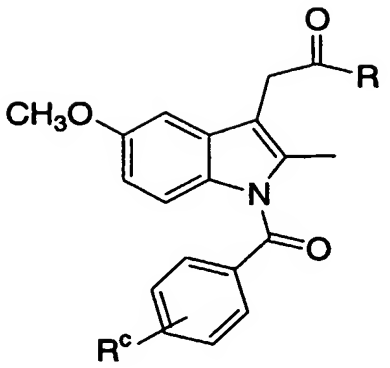


wherein R represents:

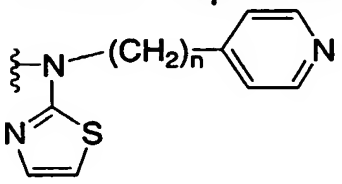


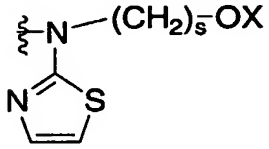
n is 0 to 3; s is 1-5; X represents hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; R^b and R^a independently represent hydrogen, methoxy, CO_2X, NHAc, or C_{1-6} alkyl; R^c represents hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, CF_3, OCF_3, $N(CH_3)_2$, COC_{1-6} alkyl, or methoxy

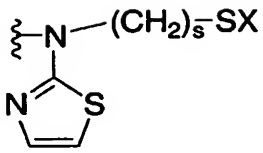
Table 3

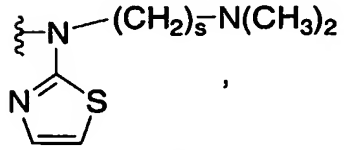


wherein R represents:









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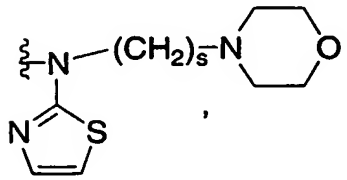

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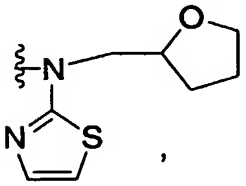

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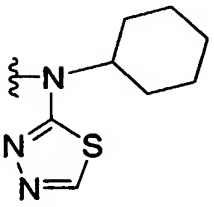

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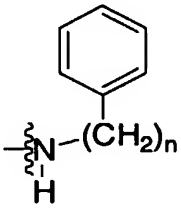

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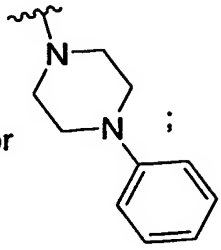
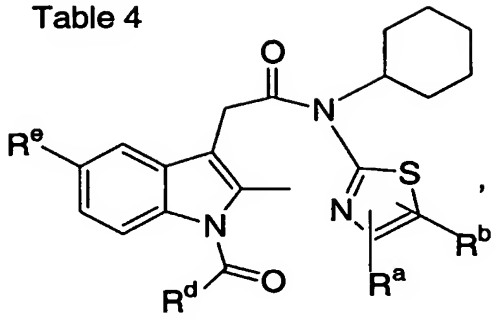


;

n is 0 to 3; s is 1-5; X represents hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; and R^c represents hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, CF_3, OCF_3, $N(CH_3)_2$, COC_{1-6} alkyl, or methoxy

Table 4



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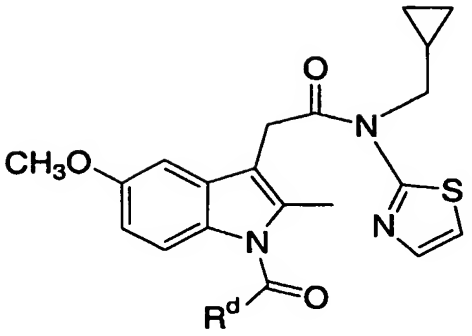
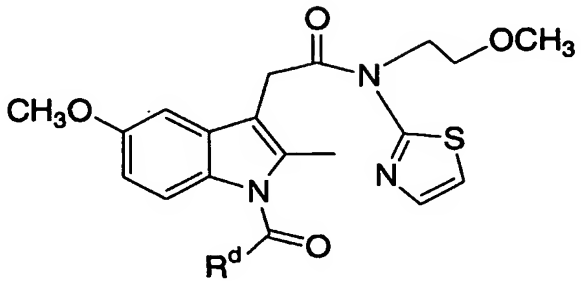


or



wherein:

R^b and R^a independently represent hydrogen, methoxy, CO_2X, NHAc, or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^d represents C1-6 alkyl, pyridinyl, -O-phenyl, phenyl, thienyl, said pyridinyl and phenyl optionally substituted with 1-3 halogen, CF_3, OCF_3, $N(CH_3)_2$, methoxy or C1-6 alkyl; and

R^e represents methoxy, $O(CH_2)_2N(CH_3)_2$, or OH;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer, diastereomer or mixture thereof.

14. The method according to claim 12 wherein the compound of the formula I is administered in a formulation selected from solution topical formulation and a suspension topical formulation.

15. A method according to claim 14 wherein an active ingredient belonging to the group consisting of: β-adrenergic blocking agent, parasympathomimetic agent, carbonic anhydrase inhibitor, and a prostaglandin or a prostaglandin derivative is optionally added to the formulation.

16. A method according to claim 21 wherein the β-adrenergic blocking agent is timolol; the parasympathomimetic agent is pilocarpine; the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor is dorzolamide, acetazolamide, metazolamide or brinzolamide; the prostaglandin is latanoprost or rescula, and the prostaglandin derivative is a hypotensive lipid derived from PGF2α prostaglandins.

17. A method for treating macular edema or macular degeneration, increasing retinal and optic nerve head blood velocity or increasing retinal and optic nerve oxygen tension, or providing a neuroprotective effect comprising administration to a patient in need of such treatment a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer, diastereomer or mixture thereof.

18. The method according to Claim 17 wherein the compound of formula I is applied as a topical formulation.

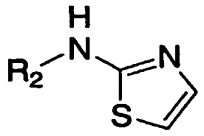
19. A method according to claim 18 in which the topical formulation optionally contains xanthan gum or gellan gum.

20. A method of preventing repolarization or hyperpolarization of a mammalian cell wherein the cell contains a potassium channel comprising the administration to a mammal, including a human, in need thereof, of a pharmacologically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer, diastereomer or mixture thereof.

21. A method of treating Alzheimer's Disease, depression, cognitive disorders or arrhythmia disorders in a patient in need thereof comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer, diastereomer or mixture thereof.

22. A method of treating diabetes in a patient in need thereof comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer, diastereomer or mixture thereof.

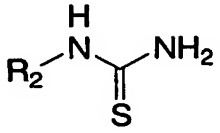
23. A process for making a compound of formula Ia:



11

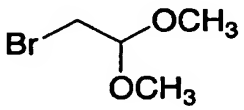
wherein R_2 is C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkylSR, $-(CH_2)_nO(CH_2)_mOR$, $-(CH_2)_nC_{1-6}$ alkoxy, $-(CH_2)_nC_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{3-10}$ heterocyclyl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{5-10}$ heteroaryl, $-N(R)_2$, -COOR, or $-(CH_2)_nC_{6-10}$ aryl,

comprising adding to an alcohol suspension of compound 9:



9

a compound of formula 10:



10

and concentrated HCl and heating at reflux to give a compound of formula 11.

24. A process according to claim 23 wherein the alcohol is ethanol, methanol, isopropanol, butanol, pentanol or hexanol.